four or five years—it was there previously but it was in a trickle—scandal-mongering has increased, and the developmental aspect of the country is finding less space in the news content of the newspapers nowadays. You have the advertisements, then these scandals. And the developmental aspect or whatever it is the environmental aspect, the employment generation programmes, the programmes of the farming community, all these do not find a place in the news content of the newspapers. So, for that purpose, I think, the newspapers should be helped or some way should be find out whereby the developmental activity which is taking place in this country finds a place because the price of the newsprint is too much and many newspapers have reduced their pages. Except one or two, most of the newspapers have reduced the pages. Sir, I would think that the control of the corporate world over the newspaper may ultimately endanger the political system in this country. And for that purpose some other system must be worked out. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY): The House stands adjourned for lunch till 2.30 P.M.

The House then adjourned for lunch at thirty-four minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty minutes past two of the clock, **The Deputy Chairman** in the Chair.

WORKING JOURNALISTS AND OTHER NEWSPAPER EMPLOYEES (CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1989—Contd.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): Madam Deputy Chairman, I want to make one thing clear on behalf of the Government that the Government is very keen to pass the Constitution Amendment Bills relating to the Panchayati Raj as well as the Nagar Palikas, and of course the other Constitution Amendment Bill is there.

The two Bills are of historic significance. They will usher in this country very basic crucial changes like participatory democracy and involvement of people. Therefore we are attaching the highest importance to them. Now, because we are attaching the highest importance to them, we want to see that the Opposition in this House—whatever we have heard them—do not seem inclined to support such a radical forward-looking revolutionary measure. And we want to pass it to the best of our capacity. Therefore we are neither running away from the debate nor from voting and therefore we are not putting it to vote today and we would rather have it in the next sitting of the Rajya Sabha, whenever it takes place.

Meanwhile I would appeal to the opposition to think twice before they make up their mind, so that they will get a chance to think that they should not oppose such radical measures. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I am on a point of order. The Hon. Minister, Mr. Bhagat, stated that the Opposition should think twice about this Panchayati Raj Bill. (*Interruptions*). Madam, it is very clear that the Government has bungled in this because they wanted to extend the session only for the purpose of considering and passing the Bills. But then they had second thoughts, because some of their calculations went wrong. Then they developed cold feet. (*Interruptions*). Mr. Bhagat, please.

Mr. Bhagat, please, you know very well that day before yesterday we very clearly stated from the opposition side that we are prepared to discuss the Bills even sitting late in the night

[Shri V. Gopalsamy]

and the voting should take place today, i.e., on Friday. But they only changed the tactics. They wanted to delay the discussion. Even this morning this was said. So, you are running away, not we. We are here to defeat the Bills. (*Interruptions*)

Even in the morning if we had taken up, we had another nine hours to discuss. But you are not prepared. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: I said only that this is a very progressive measure and that you should think twice before you finally decide to oppose the Bills.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: If you have got the guts let the voting take place today itself. Now the whole country knows. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Why Mr. Bhagat is raising the issue. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Your position is very weak. You want to do horsetrading. Whatever happens, Mr. Bhagat, I want to put it very clearly that whenever you want to bring the Bills for voting, you will be defeated. That is what I want to say.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Chaturanan Mishra.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: One minute, Madam...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. Now that matter is over.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: I hope good sense will prevail on your Members.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : उपसभापति [illegible] करनी है मझे टोटल 9 घंटा 18 मिनट बाकी रहता है इसमें हम लोग बैठने को तैयार हैं, बहस करने को तैयार हैं, रात के 12 बजे तक हम बैठ सकते हैं। इसी राज्यसभा में तीन बार ऐसा हो चुका है कि रात के 12 बजे तक हम बैठे हैं, शाहबानो वाले पर तो सुबह चार बजे तक हम लोग बैठ, इसके पहले दो बार हम हम लोग 12 बजे तक बैठे हैं। फिर यह जो 9 घंटे 18 मिनट बाकी है, हम लोग बैठने को तैयार हैं।

उपसभापति : आपने शायद सुना नहीं मालवीय जी, भगत जी ने कहा कि सरकार इस बिल को पास करना चाहती है और पास होगा नहीं।

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : हम लोग आज ही इसको खतम करना चाहते हैं। सारे विचार विमर्श के बाद आज ही इस पर वोटिंग चाहते हैं, जो 9 घंटे में हो सकती है।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me ask Mr. Chaturanan Mishra to present his petition.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: The Minister has just stated that they do not have sufficient votes. So what is the way out for them? They do not have sufficient votes. Your sitting the whole night will not give sufficient votes to them. If decision is to be on votes, they will be defeated. They are arranging their votes.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: The ultimate result will be a defeat for them.

PRESENTATION OF A PETITION

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA (Bihar): Madam, with your permission I present a petition signed by Shri Indrajit Gupta, General Secretary, All India Trade Union Congress and others praying for elimination of discrimination against women in different walks of life. Thank you.